

Lowestoft and Yarmouth Rugby Football Club



1st XV Match Report 5 December 2009

**Lowestoft & Yarmouth - 32
South Woodham Ferrers - 29**

L&Y got back to winning ways in an exciting encounter at Gunton Park, taking the spoils against a dangerous and pacy Ferrers team who had thrashed Wymondham last week. With nine tries overall and several changes in the lead, the whole game was cut and thrust throughout, but L&Y's greater overall control meant they fairly deserved to come away with the points - just.

After some even early exchanges, a lovely angled run from Myles McAlone sliced the midfield open and from the resulting breakdown infringement, Scott Nelson knocked over a penalty for a 3-0 L&Y lead. Josh Fewkes made a couple of half breaks from behind his trundling pack, but L&Y couldn't quite continue through the defence and only some good defensive covering from fullback Brad Sutherland kept the play away from the L&Y line. Kristan Taylor-Crisp, drafted from the wing to a new role on the flank, was relishing the physical contact with some fine tackling and spoiling, but in the process he conceded a kickable penalty which Ferrers failed to convert.

Ferrers went ahead midway through the half after Nelson tried a chip over the defence only to be charged down, flanker Chris Howe recovered the ball but a poor kick gifted Ferrers an overlap on the left wing which their skilful backline eagerly exploited. L&Y came back with a powerful forward rumble towards the Ferrer 22 spearheaded by props Wayne Nixon and Jake Titterington. A well timed release of quick ball to flyhalf Nelson allowed him to hit McAlone scorching back on another superb angle to burst over the line. Nelson converted only for the Ferrers to reply straight away when their centres opened up the L&Y defence for a fine converted try under the posts. Neither side looked like dropping their commitment to attacking rugby and it was not long before L&Y captain Marc Thomas forced a penalty which Nelson pushed wide. By playing territory and keeping the ball in the Ferrers half, L&Y forced a lineout on the visitors 22m line. Simon Coleman soared high to claim the ball and set up a driving maul which was skilfully taken over the line for veteran lock Russ Wilkinson to touch down. With Sutherland missing the conversion L&Y were briefly back into a three point lead, which Ferrers promptly cancelled on the stroke of halftime by converting a penalty given for Coleman straying offside.

The drama continued into the second half when pressure in the Ferrers 22 and a quickly tapped penalty by Nelson led to a lineout on five metres. By now L&Y realised Ferrers had no answer to their forward dominance, so Coleman claimed the lineout once more and this time the drive over the line was finished by captain Thomas. Knowing not to allow the dangerous Ferrers open-field runners to show

their pace, the L&Y forwards continued to control the ball at every opportunity. However, good pressure defence from Ferrers forced Sutherland into a hasty clearance kick which for the second time in the game surrendered both possession and a three man overlap which Ferrers fully exploited with another score under the posts and conversion. Again L&Y came back and some excellent forward drives down the middle of the field and speedy delivery from replacement scrum half Tom Castleton opened up space for Taylor-Crisp to cut through midfield for a try converted by Sutherland to resume the five-point lead. This was soon extended to ten points after Howe touched down the third L&Y try of the game directly directly from a lineout drive. Typically, any thoughts of an easy end to the game were dispelled when, with the game already in injury time and light fading fast, Ferrers manufactured a score in the right hand corner and a superb conversion put them just three behind. For a further five frantic nerve-wracking minutes the visitors tried everything to break through but L&Y held out for the points, and so maintain their fifth position in the league among the leading contenders.

Team: Nixon, Bristo, Titterington, Coleman, Wilkinson, Howe (McElroy), Taylor-Crisp, Thomas (C), Fewkes (Castleton), Nelson, Boardley, Adams, McAlone, Howell, Sutherland

Not used: Murkett

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